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## Architecture.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

*Regular Meeting of November 15, 1859.*—An interesting debate took place in relation to the decision of the Committee upon the designs submitted for the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. A general opinion prevailed that the design selected was impracticable, and that the award of the first premium to its author was not justified. An opinion also prevailed that the designs by R. M. Hunt and Jacob Wrey Mould were by far the most creditable in the exhibition, and that it was unfortunate that the limited expense of the building precluded their adoption.

By order,

HENRY DUDLEY, *Secretary pro tem.*

## Foreign Correspondence, Items, etc.

We are permitted to make the following extracts from a private letter, dated at London the 5th ultimo:

"I intended to have written you from the Isle of Wight, but my time for sketching there was so brief, I could not devote myself to anything else. After being out all day in search of the picturesque, or at actual work, one feels too much fatigued to do anything more than attend to such correspondence as turns up every day. Here in England everybody seems to do everything by writing; and it is not unusual to find, when one enters the house, a score of notes to be answered and sent to one's neighbors.

"When at Bonchurch (Isle of Wight), I found many subjects that pleased me; I set to work in the most persevering manner, through sunshine and storm, filling up the clinks of time by sketching old anchors, lobsterpots, tarred windlasses, boats, and all such little bits as are only to be seen in a genuine pictorial state at the rustic villages on the shores of England. I found at Arreton a very good interior church-scene—quite a 'David Roberts.' It is the church where the 'Dairyman's daughter' worshipped and is buried. The church is very old, of Norman foundation, but rebuilt at different periods, until it has become quite picturesque: fortunately it has not been much tampered with in its more recent restorations. The cottage of the 'Dairyman's daughter,' about a mile from the church, is also picturesque. It remains to the present day about the same as at the time she lived her life of piety, as set forth in the beautiful tract by Rev. Leigh Richmond, by which her name has become known. Her proper name, which is not mentioned in the tract, was Elizabeth Walbridge. All tourists on the Isle of Wight make a pilgrimage to her grave and to the cottage in which she lived.

"There is much that is very charming on the Isle of Wight to repay one for time spent there; there is nothing very grand, but much that is worthy of study. Carisbrooke Castle is a very interesting object; the gateway still shows over its arch, in good preservation, the arms of Elizabeth; and the portcullis-tower, of a much earlier period, is quite perfect. The inner old oaken door, bolted through and through with iron, is still there, and swings regularly to admit visitors as of old; an entire suite of rooms of two centuries ago is yet remaining, and a keep of Roman foundation still looks proudly over the surrounding country. The same well, 250 feet deep, which supplied water to the Roman builders and to Roman legions, and since to the chivalrous steel-clad men who dared and delighted to break

lances out of love for 'my ladie,' is as prolific in quantity and as pure as ever, still furnishing water to the humble porter's family, and slaking the thirst of visitors who come from all parts of the world to see the remains of olden times. Within a few months past the remains of a Roman villa have been discovered near the castle; there is a pavement, a bath, and portions of wall, all found in a state of complete preservation.

"The air on the south coast of the island, upon what is termed the 'undercliff,' is very delightful; it is highly recommended by the medical faculty for consumptive people. The vegetation has quite a tropical look from its luxuriance; flowers that are preserved with difficulty in a hothouse thrive through the winter in the open air; all creeping vines and blackberry briars have a happy time—by the way, blackberries are the only one thing you may have here in this grey old England, for the picking of them—everything else is taxed. We devoted six weeks to this balmy Italy of England, where the 'heggs' and the 'hail' and joints cost more than they do in 'Lunnun,' returning with brown faces, tanned and freckled enough to resemble the 'ring-streaked and speckled' stock of Jacob."

From another letter, dated London, 4th Nov. 1859:—"I am much obliged to you for the CRAYONS, which throw considerable light upon American Art proceeding; they are very interesting, exhibiting as they do a growing sense of the value of Art and an increased diffusion of taste and feeling for it. I believe this is very much the case in England; indeed, you can hardly mix in any cultivated society without stumbling upon collectors or amateur workers. It was proposed, a short time since, to have an Amateurs' exhibition in London next year, and I should be very glad to see the plan carried out. I am sure it would call from secret retreats a great deal of very beautiful Art, pursued silently and modestly by persons who never dream of exhibiting their works in any of the great public galleries. A great many of our English clergymen are good sketchers; and I believe the Archbishop of Canterbury, in addition to many other estimable qualities, possesses this virtue likewise.

"Something which I read in a recent CRAYON induces me to mention the London 'Artists and Amateurs' Conversation.' Perhaps you may know all about it; but if not, it may interest you. This is a private Society, numbering about 150 members, part artists, part amateurs; they hold four meetings yearly—generally in February, March, April, and May, at which there is a large display of studies and sketches, besides a good show of pictures, contributed by the various members. It is not imperative for a member to contribute, but he is expected to do so on one of the four evenings, and for this purpose the names are divided into four lists, so that every one may know when his contribution is due. The Society sends round for the works of art offered, and returns them the following day. Each member besides personal admission to all the meetings, has four transferable admissions for friends. A moderate subscription defrays the expenses—hire of rooms, tea, coffee, etc.; and these meetings are really among the most agreeable and fascinating features of our winter occupations. The 'Graphic' Society is somewhat similar; but only artists are admitted as members, and the 'Graphics' do not invite ladies, whereas the 'Artists and Amateurs' do. Exhibitions of this sort are in many respects more interesting and instructive than regular galleries of finished pictures. There is something in the sketches of artists and others just as they are taken on the spot, which one does not always find completely carried out in the finished work, and